are at the fullest speed; and most often, as in this case, when the hunter has forced his victim from the herd, when he pursues it with less danger to himself and horse, and with much more certainty of producing the death. The Indians, in their native state, generally ride, in war and in the chase, without saddle, and always without bridle. They make, and use on most ordinary occasions, a very good saddle; but when preparing to go into this desperate chase, they halt half a mile or so from the herd, without danger of putting them in motion; when each hunter throws off his shirt, quiver, head-dress, shield, and whatever else of his dress that may become an incumbrance or hindrance to the free use of his limbs; carrying in the left hand, firmly clenched, his bow and some half dozen arrows, with his heavy and cruel whip attached to the wrist of his right arm. In this disrobement he puts off the saddle, and often lashes a bear or other skin, with the girth, to his horse's back, astride of which he throws himself, feeling more secure as he is nearer his horse's back, by which both the horse and his rider derive great benefit from feeling each other's motions; and in this plight he dashes off at full speed, the rein in his hand, which is but a small halter of raw hide or of horsehair, fastened around the under jaw of the horse, and hanging loosely on the neck. The Indian has little use even for this, after he has directed the attention of his horse to the animal he wishes to pursue, and has separated it from the herd; for such is the extraordinary training of most of these little horses that they will with certainty bring their rider alongside without the guidance of the rein; allowing the Indian to fix his arrow upon the string, and to place himself in the proper position for giving the deadly shot, which is done at the instant the horse is passing the animal, and that generally within the distance of four or five paces, as is seen in this plate.

The very great disparity in size between the horse and the buffalo, in this instance, which is much more than is usual, nevertheless correctly illustrates the actual difference that often occurs between an Indian poney of thirteen or fourteen hands, and a huge bull, as is here represented, weighing, as they sometimes do, 1800 or 2000 pounds.

In giving the arrow under these circumstances, the bow is pulled with great suddenness, and the arrow flies with terrible and almost incredible effect; generally striking the heart or the region of it, so that death is most commonly produced by one arrow; and if the first fail to enter deep enough, a second one is sent in an instant, and the huge animal, with a few leaps more, tumbles down and is dead in a few moments. After the fatal arrow has flown, the horse, which has passed the animal, is often guided to another and another, until in a similar manner several will get their deaths from a handful of arrows, all of which are dealt out in a minute or two of time. After this, the halter is used to "pull up," and in fact, is of little other use, the Indian generally guiding the horse, when guidance is necessary, by leaning quite forward, and suddenly, but gently, striking the right hand over one or the other of the horse's eyes, bending its course with ease and with grace, in any direction.

Plate No. 6.

BUFFALO CHASE.

In this Plate, representing a numerous group in motion, and closely pursued by a party of Indians, with Lances and Bows, there is a fair illustration of the peculiar character of a vast deal of the "rolling prairies," in the great plains towards the Rocky Mountains; and which, by a phrase of the country, is denominated "Prairie Bluffs." These conical hills, which often rise to the height of several hundred feet, sometimes continuing in ranges and in regular succession, for a great number of miles, like tremendous waves of the ocean, are everywhere divested of timber and shrubbery, and covered with a short grass; and during the spring and summer months, watered by frequent showers, robing them constantly with the most intense and verdant green. These are the most favourite haunts of the buffaloes; and when hotly pursued they will often seek the highest summits to avoid the approach of their enemies; but even there, as seen in the illustration, the sinewy wild horse will carry his rider by their sides, where death is as inevitable as upon the level ground.

The laso seen trailing behind the horse's heels in this plate, and which has already been described, though it is nowhere used to arrest the fury of the buffalo's speed, seldom fails to be dragged in the chase, attached to the horse's neck and following in the grass some fifteen or twenty yards behind, that the rider who may fall to the ground, may grapple to it; and by running with it in his hand, have the means of securing his horse, and of being again, in an instant, upon its back.

The lance which is seen carried in this chase, of twelve or fourteen feet in length, is a deadly weapon in the hands of those skilled by the constant handling of it for the greater part of their lives; equally valued and equally fatal, in war and the chase, as the bow and arrow; and used much in the same manner by all the mounted Indians of the great plains and prairies of America. The blade of this lance is of bone, of silex, or of steel, and the shaft, light and delicate, of wood. It is never thrown from the hand, but at the moment the horse is passing the animal or an enemy, the thrust is instantly made by passing the handle of the lance through the left hand, holding it firmly in his right, as the rider leans from the side of his horse. One blow (which is given with the suddenness of the darting of a snake's tongue, with great precision, and generally at right angles with the horse's back, not to entangle and endanger the lance) is generally all that is required, as the blade is dipped to the heart of the animal, which can run but a very few rods before it is down upon its haunches and dying.